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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSIPELY EIVED 1 Arizona Corporation Commission 2 WILLIAM A. MUNDELL DOCKETED 2002 OCT 21 P 4: 2h Chairman 3 JIM IRVIN OCT 21 2002 Commissioner AZ CORP COMMISSION 4 MARC SPITZER DOCUMENT CONTROL Commissioner DOCKETED BY 5 6 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF Docket No. E-01345A-02-0707 ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FOR AN ORDER OR ORDERS AUTHORIZING IT TO ISSUE, INCUR, OR ASSUME EVIDENCES OF 8 STAFF'S RESPONSE TO APS' LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS; TO ACQUIRE A MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE FINANCIAL INTEREST OR INTERESTS IN AN 9 ORDER AFFILIATE OR AFFILIATES: TO LEND MONEY TO AN AFFILIATE OR AFFILIATES; AND TO 10 GUARANTEE THE OBLIGATIONS OF AN AFFILIATE OR AFFILIATES. 11 The Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") Utilities Division Staff ("Staff") 12 hereby objects to the portions of the Company's Motion for Protective Order that place restrictions 13 upon Staff's access to information. 14 The Company initiated this case when it filed its application. In this case, the Company is 15 proposing to use its own assets to guarantee the financing of a competitive affiliate. The Company is 16 seeking regulatory relief in order to remedy its affiliate's competitive dilemma. And by seeking this 17 relief, i.e., the authorization to encumber the regulated entity's assets by \$500,000,000, it opens itself 18 to examination upon every aspect of that request. The Company created this tension by filing this 19 application. Having created its own dilemma, the Company should not be allowed to delay or limit 20 Staff's review of this information. 21 Furthermore, the Company has not alleged that Staff should be foreclosed from seeing this 22 highly confidential information, but instead claims that this information should not be provided to the 23 merchant generators. The Company then proposes a solution in which any party who wishes to see 24 this information must initiate a request with the ALJ. Staff objects to this procedure because it places 25 the burden of obtaining it upon Staff, even though Staff is not the party from whom the Company 26 seeks to shield this information and even though Staff has already entered a protective agreement 27 28 with the Company. In addition, consistent with its status as a public service corporation, the Company has a constitutional and statutory obligation to provide complete information to the Commission upon request and without proof of "necessity."

Staff understands that APS may be reluctant to provide certain competitive information to the merchant generators. Nonetheless, the remedy that APS has suggested will hamper Staff's receipt of information, even though APS is not alleging that disclosure to Staff will competitively harm either APS or its affiliates. Staff does not object to appropriate restrictions for the merchant generators' review of highly sensitive information. However, Staff objects to APS' plan to place those same restrictions upon Staff.

The procedural deadlines in this proceeding are tight, and Staff will be hard pressed to meet existing filing deadlines. The Company's proposal has the potential to force Staff to initiate proceedings before the ALJ to convince her that disclosure of competitively-sensitive information is "necessary," thereby complicating this case by discovery disputes. This proposal is particularly inequitable in light of the Company's admission that it has no objection to providing this information to Staff. Thus, Staff objects to the portions of the Company's Motion for Protective Order that place restrictions upon Staff's access to information.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 21st day of October, 2002.

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Original and ten copies of the foregoing filed this 21st day of October, 2002, with:

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